Remarks

Summary

Claims 1-11, 13-22, 24, and 38-45 have been amended to improve their form and to overcome a formal rejection, Claims 1, 13, 24, 39, 40, 41, and 45 have been amended to recite at least one feature not disclosed or suggested by the publication to Huang, and Claims 25-37 have been canceled without prejudice. Therefore, the application is now believed to be in allowable form.

Status of the claims

Claims 1-24 and 38-45 are pending. Claims 25-37 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-11, 13-22, 24, and 38-45 have been amended to improve their form for reasons unrelated to patentability and to overcome a formal rejection. In addition Claims 1, 13, 24, 39, 40, 41, and 45 have been amended to overcome substantive rejections thereto. Claims 1, 13, 24, 39-41, and 45 are independent.

Requested action

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Status of Claim 39

The first three lines of paragraph 7 of the Office Action, which list the claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over the Huang publication, do not list Claim 39, while the penultimate

line of page 5 of the Office Action does reject Claim 39 over this publication. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner clarify the status of Claim 39. For the purposes of this response, Applicant assumes that Claim 39 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over the Huang publication.

Formal rejection

The claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, because of grammatical and idiomatic errors therein.

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejection, Claims 25-37 have been canceled without prejudice and Claims 1-11, 13-22, 24, and 38-45 have been amended to improve their readability in idiomatic English. Applicant submits that these claims are now even more grammatically and idiomatically correct and now even more clearly satisfy 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Substantive rejections

Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 13, 15, 18, 20, 24-26, 30, 32, 33, 37, 39, 40, 41, 44, and 45 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0032218 A1 ("Huang"). Claims 2, 4-6, 8, 10-12, 14, 16, 17, 19, 21-23, 27, 28, 31, 34-36, 38, 42, and 43 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over the publication to Huang in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,351,317 ("Sasaki"). Claim 29 has been rejected as obvious over the publication to Huang in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0179223 A1 ("Iwase").

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejections, Claims 25-37 have been canceled without prejudice and independent Claims 1, 13, 24, 39, 40, 41, and 45 have been amended. Support for these amendments is found at least at page 15, line 4 through page 26, line 33 of the specification. Applicant submits that as amended, independent Claims 1, 13, 24, 39, 40, 41, and 45 are allowable at least for the following reasons.

Amended independent Claim 1 relates to an image processing apparatus for generating image data of a document by processing document data representing the document and described in a predetermined structured description language. The apparatus comprises analysis means for analyzing the document data and recognizing font size information contained in the document data. The font size information is information on the font size applied to a character or a character train contained in the document represented by the document data. The analysis means also recognizes the character or the character train contained in the document represented by the document data to which the font size information is applied. The apparatus also comprises instruction input means for entering information relating to a standard font size to be used for formatting the document data for printing on at least one physical page, and drawing means for executing a drawing process such that data representing the character or the character train recognized by the analysis means is outputted for printing on the at least one physical page at the standard font size entered by the instruction input means instead of the font size represented by the font size information contained in the document data.

By this arrangement, the document data not originally formatted for printing on physical pages, can be easily formatted and printed in units of pages, even though the font information contained in the document data does not reflect such formatting.

In contrast, the publication to Huang is understood to merely relate to a method for producing structured documents with user-defined document type definitions and to provide a document conversion process for converting an unstructured document into a metafile and modifying the metafile in accordance with received document type definitions (paragraphs [0003], [0011], and [0013]). But this patent is not understood to disclose or suggest at least instruction input means for entering information relating to a standard font size to be used when the document data is formatted for printing on at least one physical page, and drawing means for executing a drawing process such that data representing the character or the character train recognized by the analysis means is outputted for printing on the at least one physical page at the standard font size entered by the instruction input means instead of the font size contained in the document data, as recited by amended Claim 1.

Page 4 of the Office Action cites page 6 and paragraphs [0066] and [0067] as showing instruction means for entering of a standard font size for output of an image by allotment to a physical page and the outputting of a recognized character or character train with a font size entered by instruction means. But:

1) paragraph [0066] is merely understood to teach the loading or importing of structured or unstructured documents ("Input module 406 loads documents or imports documents from a document database 402 that may correspond to a repository in computing device 102 of FIG. 1A. Alternatively, input module 406 can start a new document 408. It should be noted that

the loaded or imported documents, can be either unstructured (e.g. a metafile) or structured and may have contained pre-created structure-based font information in certain cases");

2) paragraph [0067] is merely understood to teach the editing of structure-based font information of inputted document data ("An editing module 410 communicates with input module 406 and creates/edits the structure-based font information for the input documents. This module allows selections of data elements for the input documents and provides an editing environment to alter the font attributes such as font type, font style, font color, font size, and font effects for the selected data elements. The way to parse the input documents into data elements and to assign font attributes is based on an association table for the document elements defined in a desired DTD and associated font attributes 412. An exemplary association table 500 for DTD 412 is given in FIG. 5, which contains fields of document element 502, element attribute 504, font type 506, font style 508, font color 510, font size 512, and font effect 514."); and

3) page 6 is merely understood to teach in paragraphs [0068] - [0076]: the editing result shown in Figure 6; the function of the transformation or filtering module 414; an example of the mapping rules as shown in Figure 7; another function of the transformation module, i.e., to output the edited documents as intermediate structured documents containing the structure-based font information; an example of the intermediate structured document as shown in Figure 8; an example of the mapping rules for converting the intermediate document into a structured document, as shown in Figure 9; an example of implementing the mapping rules as shown in Figure 10; and examples of the kinds of media on which the software of the invention is stored

Thus, these portions of the Huang publication are not understood to disclose or suggest the input instruction means or the drawing means recited by amended Claim 1.

Since amended Claim 1 is understood to recite at least one feature not disclosed or suggested by the publication to Huang, and since the Office Action is not understood to have adequately identified the portions of the Huang publication disclosing either the instruction input means or the drawing means recited by amended Claim 1, the Office has not established anticipation of Claim 1 over the publication to Huang. If the Examiner maintains this rejection, Applicant respectfully requests that he identify the elements disclosed in the Huang publication that correspond to the claimed input instruction means and the claimed drawing means and identify the portions of the Huang specification discussing the functions of the input instruction means and the drawing means recited in amended Claim 1.

Amended independent Claim 41 relates to an image processing apparatus for generating image data of a structured document by processing document data, representing the structured document, described by a predetermined structured description language. The apparatus comprises analysis means for analyzing the document data and recognizing character information representing a character or a character train contained in the document data, and drawing means for executing a drawing process such that data representing the character or the character train recognized by the analysis means is outputted for printing on at least one physical page at a predetermined font size regardless of information for designating a font size, set for the character information in the document data representing the structured document.

In contrast, the patent to Huang is not understood to disclose or suggest drawing means for executing a drawing process such that data representing the character or the character train recognized by the analysis means is outputted for printing on at least one physical page at a predetermined font size regardless of information for designating a font size, set for the character

information in the document data representing the structured document, as recited by amended Claim 41.

Page 8 of the Office Action discusses the rejection of Claim 41 over the Huang publication, but does not explicitly allege that the Huang publication discloses the drawing means recited by Claim 41. Instead, page 8 of the Office Action quotes from paragraph [0043] of the Huang publication: "According to one embodiment, an unstructured document is printed to a metafile format that contain the decoration information. An example of a metafile format is commonly used Portable Data Format (PDF). One of the advantages of the metafile format is its independence from the authoring tool and perhaps from computers so that the metafile format can be opened or read identically in many different environments." But this paragraph does not discuss any kind of analysis means, any kind of outputting of data recognized by such analysis means for printing, any kind of outputting of data for printing at a predetermined font size, or any kind of the outputting of data for printing at a predetermined font size regardless of information for designating a font size, set for the character information in the document data representing the structured document. Thus, this passage is not understood to disclose or suggest drawing means for executing of a drawing process such that data representing a character or a character train recognized by the analysis means is outputted for printing on at least one physical page at a predetermined font size regardless of information for designating a font size, set for the character information in the document data representing the structured document, as recited by amended Claim 41.

Since amended Claim 41 is understood to recite drawing means not disclosed or suggested by the publication to Huang, and since the Office Action does not even directly argue

that the <u>Huang</u> publication discloses this feature, the Office is not understood to have established anticipation of Claim 1 over the publication to <u>Huang</u>. If the Examiner maintains this rejection, Applicant respectfully requests that he identify the element or elements disclosed in the <u>Huang</u> publication that correspond to the claimed drawing means and more specifically identify the portions of the <u>Huang</u> specification discussing each claimed feature of the drawing means recited in amended Claim 41.

The remaining independent claims, Claims 13, 24, 39, 40, and 45 have been amended in ways similar to the amendments to Claims 1 or 41 and are therefore allowable for similar reasons.
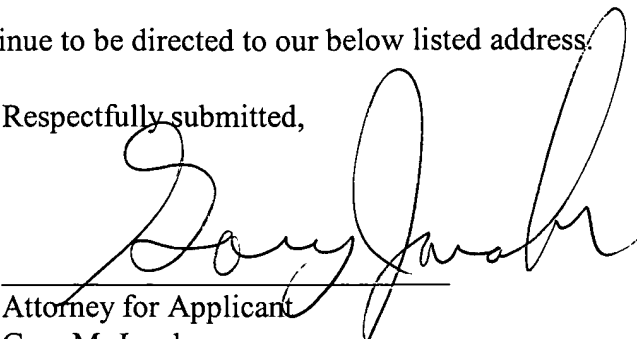
The dependent claims are allowable for the reasons given for the independent claims and because they recite features that are patentable in their own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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